

# A CHARACTER

OF A

*Female-Cockney,*

Brought upon the publike Theater.

To be Judged, Censured, and Condemned by his Friends  
and Assistants in the late-revived work of

**LABOUR-IN-VAIN.**

*These whim-crown'd Shees, these fashion-forging wits,  
Be empty thin-brain'd Shells, and f—ing Kitti.*

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By **R. T.**

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*Quid furo levis fulmen, quid fulmine ventus  
quid vento mulier, quid muliere nihil.*


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Holy-Lamb in Pauls Church-yard. 1656.



THE  
CHARACTER  
OF A  
Shee-Cockney.

 Cockney is one who being conceived in the first face of Capricorn, and born in the last of Virgo, when the Sun is ready to enter into Libra, will lightly lose the Zone of her Virginity, to be stretched open with weight of pounds, to maintain her Bravery; This is Dana's eldest Daughter, whom *Pride* lyes open to a Golden Jupiter, It would puzzle a petty French Herald, to reckon up the Apish Pedigree of her descent, yet the Lustre of her Virtue challenges an affinity with the glory of the Planets; as if so be the brightness of the one, would obnubilate the splendour of the other; Indeed she is a pretty Synopsis when she trips it to the Tyre-shop Courtied, with a Madam what lack you, and of so Legislative a Linage, that she will spawn annually; the Genuine off-spring of our Grand-Mother Eve, whose fond conceptions (whereby she is wrapt into a Fools Paradise) smell alwayes of the Adder Arrogance.

*Pride* hath got possession of her heart, which in Law is eleven points, and will not be dis-inherited as long as she can get Twelve-pence to maintain Smies. This is that cockered Chicken, whom her Pelican-Mother feeds with her own blood, whose Father if he be not Dives in libris, he must be multus in libris, if he be not rich in pounds, she will make him much in Bonds: She is diametrically opposite

fit to a wife man, for whereas he knows all felicity to  
consist in *virtue*, and the internal habit of the mind; she  
places hers in *vesture*, and the external habit of the body.

This is the very quintessence of *pride*, *inconstancy* in the  
abstract, and *vanity* epitomized; In *pride* she resembles a  
*Peacock*, to whom it is death to object her feet; And in  
*Inconstancy* she is not unlike the counterfeit *Praxiteles* made  
for *Flora*, before which if one stood directly, it seemed to  
*weep*, if on the left side to *laugh*, if on the right to *sleep*. In  
*Vanity* she exceeds those short-liv'd *Animalls* whom *Aris-  
totle* avers to be rocked in the Cradle of their infancy in  
the morning, and at night with old age hurled to their  
Graves, for the flower of her Beauty spreads in the mor-  
ning with the *Hellitrope*, and vanishes at night with the  
withered *Grass*. When *Leander* was drowned the Inhabi-  
tants of *Sestos* consecrated *Hero's* *Lantern* to *Anteros* (*Ante-  
rosi sacrum*) and he that had good success in his Love,  
should light the candle, but none could be found to light  
it, by reason of the *inconstancy* and lightness of *Women*.

If she be *Beautiful*, she is the best *Sign-post* at her Fathers  
Shop door, for like a *Leadstone* she'll attract *Sword-men*,  
*Gallants* and *Roarers*, where they cleave sometimes long  
and are not easily got off: But if *Deformed*, a most dura-  
ble *Marble* for a *Limner* whereon he may to day draw *Ve-  
nus*, to morrow *Vacuna*; so that if that *Aristotelicall* *Axiom*  
be true, viz. *Forma dat esse rei*, it's no wonder if she be  
unstable in fancy, who *Orpheus*-like is thus unconstant in  
form.

Here you have a lively *Emblem* of *Euripus*, which (*Pli-  
vio Referente*) ebbs and flows seven times in a day; This  
Darling of our Lady *Venus* seems to degenerate from her  
Mothers Lightness, whose sole Executrix she is, who her  
self being constituted of *Neptunes* Froth, which is tossed  
with every wind, left and bequeathed *Inconstancy* to her  
Heirs, as her sole endowment and proper Dowry.

This is the most *Ambroviuous Spice-monger* that ever *India*  
hatched, whose affectio to sweet meats hath made her like  
a *Sugar-chest*, apt to take fire with the heat of *Lust*; but her  
masked *Modesty* smoothers the *Flames*. Fawns

*Fawns* and *Satyrs* must needs play wrecks, when they come in such a wanton *Baccho* or *Eleudra's* presence, that will lose her *Maidenhead* like a *Spanish Gennet*; without the concourse of *Jupiter*. Her common Sanctuary was a *Playhouse*, but since that hath bin voted down by a voyce from *Westminster*, she flies to a *Bawdy-house*.

She is alwayes as capable of new Impressions, as *Materia Prima* it self, that still desires new forms, like the waves of the Sea, rowled this way and that way; her Affections guided by blind fancy do ebb and flow; Her eyes are like a *Ballance*, apt to propend each way, & to be weigh'd down with every glance; Her heart a *Weathercock*; Her affection tinder, or *Napthe* it self, which is set on fire upon every amorous look, carrying in her forehead that *Spartan motto* *Quicquid libet licet*; a true *Trojan sister* to that *Spanish wench* in *Aristo*; If fair & wanton she will engrave *Cupids Arms* in her husbands forehead, and make him a *Cornuto*; If deformed, she will paint; if her face be foul by Nature, she will mend it by Art; if young, she will be wanton; if lusty, too lascivious; and if she be not satisfied, you know where and when she will, — *Nil nisi jurgia*, — she will wear the Breeches in her *Oligarchicall* government, and will turn up trump before the *Cards* be shuffled; An excellent Artift at *Tables*, for she will alwayes be a bearing Men; Is not this a pretty Babe of Grace?

To what end are her curled locks and painted face, her naked breasts, and mincing gait, but a Day-net to catch Larks, to make young men prostitute their service to the honour of her Fan. Not unlike a *Sybarite*, *Nero's Poppo*, so fantastick, apish, & ridiculous in Apparel, and so long a dressing, as *Cæsar* was a Martialling his Army.

And those that will look to prevail with this our Lady must do as *Liber* did with *Ariadne* powre down Crowns, Florens, Chickings, Angels, and all manner of Coynes and Stamps in her lap; feed her with the heads of *Parrets* tongues of *Nightingales*, the brains of *Peacocks*, and blood of a *Phoenix*, her Bath must be the Juice of *Gilliflowers*, Spirit of *Roses*, the Milk of *Unicorns*, As old *Vulcan* courted *Cælia* in the Comædy.

When

When *Venus* lost her son *Cupid*, she sent out Proclamation, to bid every one that met him take heed, questionless he spent his first Arrow at a *Cockney*, which hath made her ever since study *Dioptricks*, and to be much conversant in *speculation*, but no great proficient in *speculative knowledge*, the reason is apparent, for she speculates the *Microscopie* in a Magnifying glass; instead of which, if she would but take *Swans speculum Mundi*, and there perpend the lineaments and parts of her body, she should find her self no such *Atlantick prop* to the Universe, but it might easily stand without her.

Her Wit indeed is *rare*, for scarce once in a year shall you find it; It hath no being *extra intellectum*, i.e. its being is Imaginary, her goodness *immensurable*, for it exceeds the rule of Reason; yet I profess she hath more goodness on her little finger, then I on my whole body when she hath her *Diamonds* on.

But who can unravill all her devices? what experienced *Ariadne*, conceited *Lucian*, or wanton *Aristextus*? It is her Parents care to instruct her to play upon the *Violl*, *Lute*, and *Virginals*, to sing, dance, and sport before she can say her *Pater noster*; so that her quotidian practice and delight, is singing, dancing, hearing or telling lascivious Tales, scurrilous Tunes, wanton gestures, amorous conceits, and the like; she spends most of her time between a Combe and a Glass, and had rather be accounted fair then honest; She must have her servant to be every hour combing his head, trimming his beard, perfuming his hair, curling his locks, painting, washing, &c. and not come abroad but sprucely adorned, decked, and apparelled, he must tend upon her where ever she goes, wait at her door to see her, take all opportunities, disguises, counterfeit shapes, and as many forms as *Jupiter* himself took; and offer her service every minute; and if his purse be ne'r so wel stuffed with angels, all must wait upon her.

Woman was the Complement of the Creation, and a *Cockney* is the very Complement of Women, whose sole joy is often to be saluted *Madam*, to be much solicited by servants,

servants, and attended on by Maids, her person to be hurried about with *Coaches*, her ears delighted with *Catches*, yet is she no more then an *Animall* of two senses, eyes and palate; her eyes (whose object are colours) she employes all the forenoon in trimming her self with *Ceruses*, and scarce all *Arabia* will serve her to perfume her body, for her care is to be in the fashion (justifying nothing out of fashion, alwayes a non-conformist in a close Stomacher) reserving her palate till noon; and if she be ready in the afternoon, and her outside suitable (further then which she never doth effectually converse with her self) then her Ambition leads her to her *Chamber window*, where again she makes use of her *souls Opticks* to receive the *Idea* of passengers into her *Tunica retina*, which having passed the judgment of her besotted Intellect, resident in her *G'andula pinealis*, are committed to memory, there to be kept close prisoners til som opportunity bring her to discourse, and then she sets them at liberty, having freely descanted on their behaviours, and passed her judgement on their persons.

And if at any time she gets to the *Church* (and the end of her going is but to show her interchangeable Garbe, her fair hands and neat feet, it shall go hard but all shall be seen) she will by the way veil her face, lest the Ayre moistned with vapours take down her *Colours*, but when she is seated, then unveils she a painted *Image*, that hath more Adorers then a *Golden Calf*; Sure this is the brood of that *PiEura loquens*, that so much advanced the *Romish* superstition, but such pictures by the present law should be suspended, lest *Feaks* and *Rogers* rail at them for *Brats of the whore of Babylon*.

A young Courtier in *Caligulus* his Apologies wished with all his heart he were transformed to his Mistress *Ring* to hear, imbrace and see I know not what; O thou fool quoth the *Ring*, if thou wert in my room, thou wouldst hear, observe, and see *Pudenda et penitenda*, that which would make thee loath all women for her sake.

Look into her *Closet*, and there you shall find an *Apothecaries*



carries shop of sundry Medicines; a Pedlars pack of new fangles; disrobe her of her attire, and she will appear so odious, ugly, and deformed, that it will rather cause an utter detestation then any amorous affectation.

This is the *Aritbmeticians Cypher*, that stands for nothing, but serves onely to increase, and double the number of other figures.

The *Grammarians Heteroclite*, that will be regulated in no case, subjected to no Gender, nor contented with due number, — Hem!

The *Naturalists Materia prima*, which being meerly passive, and purely potentiall, is indifferent to all forms, and successively receptive of severall forms.

The *Mathematicians stella erratica*, whose irregular motion made *Aristotle* to invent his *Excentricall Orbs*.

The *Musicians Sol fa*, which is *Vox et preterea nihil*, a sound without a substance, for a woman is but wind.

The *Rhetoricians Mysteron proteron*, or Cart afore the horse, whose words are preposterous, and actions *Analytical*, who though last created, yet would be first elected into Matrimony.

The *Logicians Dilemma*, or *bicornuted Argument*, which drives the Respondent on this side to *Scylla*, on that to *Charybdis*, for better may you satisfie *Scotus* then her scruples.

In matter of Love she wil cross you in a fair manner, and abuse you with great respect; there is a great deal of malignity in her, she loves to trample upon the neck of the purses of her servants. *Bias* spoke thus in praise of Women:

\* If you would marry a Wife, then either you would marry a fair, or a deformed one; Not a fair one, for then she will be common, according to that old Proverb, *How can she be fair and honest too*.

*Aristo* married a *Spartan Lass*, the fairest Lady in all Greece next to *Hellena*, but for her conditions the most beastly creature in the world.

Not a deformed one, for then she will be a torment, and no delight; therefore marry none at all. This is *Bias* that wise mans Sophistry.

A company of young *Philosophers* on a time fell at variance,

\* Si uxor est  
cenda tum aut  
formosa, aut de  
formis sed neque  
formosa, neque  
deformis, ergo  
uor non est du  
cenda.

stance, which part of a *Woman* was most desirable, and pleased best; some said the forehead, some the eyes, some the lips, a white hand, a neat leg, &c. The controversy was referred to *Lair* of *Corinth* to decide, but the smiling said, they were a company of fools, for suppose they had her where they wished, what would they first seek? this Answer not accepted of. at last it was concluded; that every part was to be abhorred: Her Lust will never be satisfied, and she will not startle at *Bawdry*; all good qualities are below her, and all her honesty lyes from her middle downwards. This is one of the tall trees of *Ida*, with their pleasant aspect, allure many to rest under their *tonghy* shades, but infects them with their grievous scent; though she solemnly swear by the *Genius* of *Cæsar*, by *Venus Shrine*, *Vesta's Light*, *Hymens Deity*, by *Jupiter*, and all the other Gods; give no credit to her words, for Inconstancy is the very quintessence of her Actions; so that, that counsell of the *Poet* is good:

*Quid facies, facies veneris, quum veneris ante re fidens, sed eas, nō potes, pectus.*

If she be a Virgin, she is quite contrary to the *Virginians* humour, who will alwayes see the rising *Sun*, but she may be excused; for when *Phœbus* rises, *Venus* sets, when *Venus* sets *Phœbus* rises; so that if I should meet a *Cockney* in the morning, I should suspect that *Vulcan* had disturbed *Mars* his pleasure, yet she will profess her self a kind of a *Huswife*, for she's trift out in all the *Acoutrements* of *Huswifery*.

She's a great Student in *Amadis-de-Gaul*, *Palmerin de Oliva*, the *Knight of the Sun*, &c. and many other such *Amorous Toyes*, not unlike that *Saman* singing wench that chants all day, and sports all night. — So that the saying of the *Satyr*ist concerning *Iberia* is verified in her *Unus Iberica ure sufficit? Ocyas illud, carquois, ut bene oculi contenta sit uno;* she's not one man that will serve her by her will.

It is a quality among *Orators*, whether *Males* or *Females*, to be long or short in calling generative, poets say the common. *Orator* hold it rabious: Let who will determine that case, I am sure she is always in the *Operative Mood*, unless by chance she slip into the *Subjunctive*, which is against the *Communicative* rule, because no *Conjunction* goes before, but I am weary of her, away with such a *Cockney*, with a vace she be gone.

FINIS.

end



